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ACTION EUR 20

INFO NEA 13, IO 13, NSA 02, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, USIA 12, E 15, NIC 01, ACDA 16, MC 01,

SAH 02, SAL 01, RSR 01, /155 W

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R 071455Z NOV 68
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 372
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
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SUBJ: MAZUROV ON ABM TALKS AND US-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. DIRECT US-SOVIET RELATIONS OCCUPIED VERY LITTLE SPACE IN THE FOREIGN PART OF MAZUROV'S 51ST ANNIVERSARY SPEECH. HE ASSERTED MERELY THAT SOVIETS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH USA, BUT WENT ON TO LAY BLAME ON US FOR THE MANY SERIOUS OBSTACLES WHICH EXIST IN THIS REGARD.

2. MOST NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF MAZUROV'S COMMENTS TOUCHING ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS WAS STATEMENT (HEARD ON TV AND CARRIED IN TASS ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUMMARY HIS SPEECH) THAT MOSCOW HAS EXPRESSED READINESS HOLD TALKS WITH US ON ABM PROBLEMS. CENTRAL PRESS TODAY OMIT ANY SUCH MENTION AND CONFINES ITSELF TO NOTING THAT "SOVIET INITIATIVE" ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN MET "POSITIVELY". BY DELIBERATELY EXPUNGING MAZUROV'S REMARKS FROM OFFICIAL VERSION OF SPEECH, REGIME MAY BE TRYING TO AVOID APPEARANCE THAT IT MORE INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT THAN IS US, PARTICULARLY SINCE GROMYKO RECENTLY MADE SIMILAR REMARKS IN HIS UNGA SPEECH.

SWANK.

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